

Unit 22 Extension Council Meeting minutes, November 29, 2018

Unit 22 Extension Council meeting was held on Thursday, November 29, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm by Brian Mueller-Chairman.

Members Present: Brian Mueller, Gary L. Green, Justin Knobloch, April Rottmann, Raeleen Neary, Nicki Rinderer, Nancy Henss

Staff Members Present: Pam Jacobs

The September minutes were reviewed by the members. Gary Green made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Justin Knobloch.

Business

- Unit funding update-Pam Jacobs

St. Clair County- same \$0 allocation for FY20 Ext. budget

Pam did speak to the St. Clair Co. Administrator (Debra Moore) and Ms. Moore explained the Co. funding challenge based on the state legislation passed a law that if a veteran is 70% or more disabled, they do not pay real estate taxes. She indicated that there is a high percentage of disabled veterans in St. Clair County and that is approximately \$1.5-2 million less revenue each year. In addition she states there are other state mandates that require substantial funding.

Madison County – same \$50,000 allocation for FY20 Ext. budget

Monroe County – \$163,000 approved with a possible \$12,000 increase, due to a rent increase after renovations are made. Renovations have not started, roof will be first, then the inside.

Information from Monroe Co. Treasurer: Tax bills were not ready to be sent before the end of the Co. fiscal year (ends Nov. 30) Thus, everything will happen in FY 19. First, the \$163,000 Extension collection will start with the mailing of tax bills and distribution in January and February. Second, the next round of tax bills for Extension allocation of \$175,000 (which includes the increase to help with bldg. renovations) will occur summer 2019 with distribution Fall 2019 before the end of County FY19.

Pam J. shared that the Monroe Co. 4-H Federation members appeared before the Co. Board to share programming highlights and thanked them for their support.

Staffing Update

- Lynn Weis, Military 4-H Ext. Program Coordinator, retired, Nov. 30. This position will be replaced through the Military 4-H program grant.

- The Visiting Metro 4-H Educator position is in the process of approval with anticipation of advertising in December.
- Marketing: Part time position, to increase awareness of Extension. Justin shared the idea of a short term consultant to get systems in place and to help existing staff keep up with a digital presence. Brian M. thought maybe a paid college internship could be utilized. Discussion of the pros and cons of a combination of all of the above.
- Commercial Ag. Position is on hold due to Ext. Administration reviewing how the Commercial Agriculture positions across the state are functioning with the variety of funding structures. The position requires a Masters in Agriculture Education, Agronomy or related field of study. The position would address agriculture challenges, provide research education through a variety of delivery methods. Gary asked what the actual need is and April asked what types of questions are asked and how often. After discussion of these points, Brian suggested a poll of the Farm Bureau would be helpful in establishing actual need.

Programming Update

Pam J. referenced the program reports in the member folders and answered questions.

Foundation Support

Pam J. explained that their sole purpose is to support extension. They exist by fund raising and donations alone. There is a budget review of each counties foundation contribution to the Unit.

Foundation fundraising events are shared with Ext. Council in their meeting folders and will be sent directly to Council members when events are scheduled.

Fiscal Year 2019

Pam J. reviewed the FY19 Budget, Smith-Lever funds and state match funds.

Next meeting is Thursday, January 31 at 6:30 at the Extension office in Collinsville.

Brian thanked everyone for coming and sharing their thoughts and ideas.

April R. made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Nicki R.

Meeting adjourned,

Raeleen Neary, Secretary.

Addition: Walter Williams, Council member, sent an email to Pam on Nov. 30, that he needs to resign from the Council due to his current work obligations and responsibilities.